

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

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April 10, 2000

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Magalie R. Salas, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 12 2000

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**


Re: CC Docket No. 00-46

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed are an original and fourteen copies of the Request for Extension of Time of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska regarding CC Docket No. 00-46, Petition for Elimination of Conditions, filed on March 10, 2000, by AT&T Corp and Alascom, Inc.

Sincerely,

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA


Patricia M. DeMarco
Acting Chair

Enclosures

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List ABCDE

1
2 Before the
3 Federal Communications Commission
4 Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

5 In the Matter of AT&T CORP. and)
6 Alascom, INC., For Elimination of)
7 Conditions Imposed by the FCC on the)
AT&T-Alascom Relationship)

CC Docket No. 00-46

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9 Request for Extension by the
10 Regulatory Commission of Alaska
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Regulatory Commission of Alaska
1016 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

25 Date: April 10, 2000
26

G. Nanette Thompson, Chair
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1963

1
2
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4 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20554

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6 Alascom, INC., For Elimination of) CC Docket No. 00-46
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 _____)

8
9 Request for Extension by the
 Regulatory Commission of Alaska

10 The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA)¹ requests that
11 interested parties be given an extension of time for filing
12 comments on the Petition for Elimination of Conditions (Petition)
13 filed by AT&T Corp. (AT&T) and Alascom, Inc. (Alascom) on March
14 10, 2000. Comments on this matter currently are due on April 17,
15 2000, with reply comments due May 2, 2000. The RCA requests
16 that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) extend the
17 comment period to September 1, 2000, with reply comments due
18 September 15, 2000.
19

20
21 The requested extension is in the public interest because
22 the issues raised in the Petition overlap issues before the RCA
23

24 ¹The RCA is the successor agency to the Alaska Public
25 Utilities Commission, and has the same jurisdictional authority
and responsibilities of the former.

26 Request for Extension
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1 in a proceeding currently underway in which the RCA is proposing
2 new regulations to apply to interexchange services in Alaska.
3
4 Without an extension, the RCA will be forced either to provide
5 comments to the FCC prematurely, which would require it to
6 prejudge issues currently before it, or not to provide the FCC
7 with comments on the complex issues raised by the Petition.
8 Given the RCA's expertise on those issues, the public interest
9 would not be served by forcing the RCA either to comment
10 prematurely or not to comment at all.
11

12 The Petition asks the FCC to eliminate or substantially
13 revise requirements imposed on AT&T and Alascom arising out of
14 the Alaska Federal-State Joint Board proceeding. That proceeding
15 was, as the Commission well knows, an extraordinarily complex one
16 which was ultimately resolved through a cooperative and
17 coordinated state-federal approach. The issues raised in the
18 Petition should not be resolved by the FCC without due
19 consideration of the intrastate impact of any action the FCC
20 should take and, at the least, careful consideration of the views
21 of the state regulatory commission.
22

23 The Petition presents complex issues that will have
24 significant effects on the Alaskan telecommunications market.
25

1 It raises many important questions concerning the provision
2 of interexchange services in Alaska and the RCA needs the time to
3 fully analyze those questions before it can comment.
4

5 Alascom is a critical carrier to the Alaska market. Under
6 existing intrastate regulations Alascom is a dominant carrier and
7 the carrier of last resort. Alascom estimates that there are
8 about 150 locations in Alaska where it retains a interexchange
9 facilities monopoly and where that monopoly is likely to continue
10 in the future.² Alascom is the only carrier with a statewide
11 network able to offer ubiquitous service to Alaska. Currently
12 Alascom is the only carrier in the market with the obligation to
13 serve communities of 25 or more. The FCC's policies regarding
14 Alascom are therefore critical Alaska.
15

16 Changes in the FCC's policies as proposed by the Petition
17 have the potential to affect consumers and other carriers
18 throughout Alaska. Residents of smaller communities could face a
19 loss of interexchange service. In addition, the consolidation of
20 AT&T and AT&T/Alascom lead to significant increases in intrastate
21

22 ²"AT&T has conscientiously fulfilled its commitments to
23 replace Aurora II and upgrade its Bush facilities in over one
24 hundred and fifty small, unprofitable rural locations where GCI
25 does not serve and probably never will." AT&T Alascom Reply
Comments, RCA Docket R-98-1, February 25, 2000, p. 3.

1 interexchange rates depending on several factors, such as the
2 impact of that consolidation on the application of separations
3 factors. Moreover, consolidation of AT&T and Alascom's books and
4 records could make effective regulation of Alascom's intrastate
5 rates impossible, should the RCA determine that it must continue
6 to regulate those rates.
7

8 The RCA is in the concluding stages of a review of the
9 Alaska intrastate interexchange market structure and the
10 regulations applying to that market (RCA Docket R-98-1). As part
11 of its R-98-1 investigation, the RCA is reviewing most of the
12 same issues raised by the Petition of CC Docket No. 00-46,
13 including:
14

15 a) Whether the market is sufficiently competitive to allow
16 Alascom to be relieved of regulation as an interexchange dominant
17 carrier for wholesale carrier's carrier services;
18

19 b) Whether Alascom should remain the interexchange carrier
20 of last resort for either retail end-user or wholesale carrier's
21 carrier services;
22

23 c) If Alascom remains a dominant carrier, what level of
24 regulation should apply to Alascom's intrastate interexchange
25 carrier's carrier services;
26

1 d) Whether Alascom should continue to file under tariff what
2 is essentially the intrastate version of FCC Tariff No. 11
3 regarding Carrier's Carrier Services (CCS) or whether this tariff
4 should be eliminated;
5

6 e) What steps should be taken to improve competition in the
7 interexchange market;
8

9 f) Whether the RCA should lift its existing restriction
10 limiting where interexchange carriers may build facilities in
11 rural Alaska; and
12

13 g) What steps should be taken to improve deployment of
14 facilities and quality service at affordable rates?
15

16 The RCA has received comments and reply comments and on
17 March 15, 2000, held a public hearing on the issues and other
18 regulation changes proposed through Docket R-98-1. The issues in
19 Docket R-98-1 include many that relate to retail rates and
20 carrier-to-carrier services. The matters before the RCA are
21 complex and must be carefully considered as they will impact all
22 consumers and competitors in Alaska.
23

24 A substantive decision in Docket R-98-1 will not occur
25 before mid-August because changes in the proposed regulations
26 will likely require the issuance of a further notice of proposed
27

1 regulations and the provision of a further opportunity for
2 comment before such regulations are adopted. The complex issues
3 and the pervasive consequences of changing a market structure
4 that has insured that all Alaskans in remote parts of the State
5 have telephone service requires the RCA's thoughtful and
6 deliberate consideration. Other interested entities from Alaska
7 should be allowed comments in CC Docket No. 00-36 in light of the
8 new intrastate market structure policies.

9
10 The RCA will not be able to provide meaningful comments in
11 CC Docket 00-46 resolving of the substantive issues in R-98-1.

12
13 Other interested parties in Alaska will need to know the
14 results of the RCA's efforts in R-98-1 to develop comments at the
15 federal level in CC Docket No. 00-46. For example, commentators
16 may support different positions depending upon whether the RCA
17 regulates intrastate interexchange rates.

18
19 The FCC will benefit by a review of our analysis. The RCA
20 has the expertise and knowledge of the Alaska market which will
21 provide insight into the issues raised by AT&T's Petition. The
22 RCA is nearing the conclusion of its review of intrastate market
23 structure issues which the FCC is only now beginning to consider
24 as a result of the recently filed Petition. The RCA is also one
25

1 of the few entities that will represent the public interest
2 rather than industry special interests. The RCA therefore
3 requests the FCC defer the comment deadline to allow sufficient
4 time for the RCA to complete its review and draft comments for
5 the CC 00-46 proceeding.
6

7 Summary

8 The RCA has significant expertise and a historical
9 perspective that will provide insight into how changes to the
10 Alaska market, including those proposed by the Petition, will
11 affect the public interest. Granting the RCA's request for an
12 extension will allow the FCC to review our analysis and
13 conclusions before making a decision on AT&T's Petition. Both
14 the RCA and other Alaska commentors will be at a disadvantage
15 when filing comments absent resolution of basic intrastate market
16 structure issues by the RCA. Finally, the RCA's resolution of
17 intrastate market structure policies may help to reduce the scope
18 of issues or clarify the issues of CC Docket No. 00-46. We
19 therefore request that the FCC extend the deadlines in this
20 docket to accommodate conclusion of R-98-1 issues.
21
22

23 The extension until September 1, 2000, we seek is reasonable
24 and consistent with the public interest. There is no reason that
25

1 the Petition needs be decided so expeditiously as to preclude
2 consideration of the RCA's comments. Failing to grant this
3 request may compromise RCA's meaningful participation in this
4 proceeding.
5

6 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 10th day of April, 2000.

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9 
10 G. Nanette Thompson, Chair
11 Regulatory Commission of Alaska
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_____)

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I, Joyce McGowan, certify as follows:

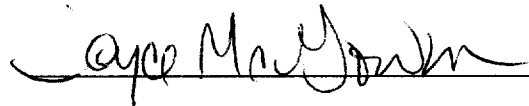
I am Administrative Supervisor in the offices of the
Regulatory Commission of Alaska, 1016 West Sixth Avenue,
Suite 400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

On April 10, 2000, I mailed copies of

Request for Extension by the
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
(Issued April 10, 2000)

in the proceeding identified above to the persons indicated on
the attached service list.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of April,
2000.



SERVICE LIST
CC-00-46

April 10, 2000
Page 1 of 3

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CC-00-46

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Alascom, Inc., d/b/a AT&T Alascom

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April 10, 2000

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CC-00-46

April 10, 2000
Page 3 of 3

This document was also emailed to:
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